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Booth, Evangeline

Shall America go back?

New York

[1923?]

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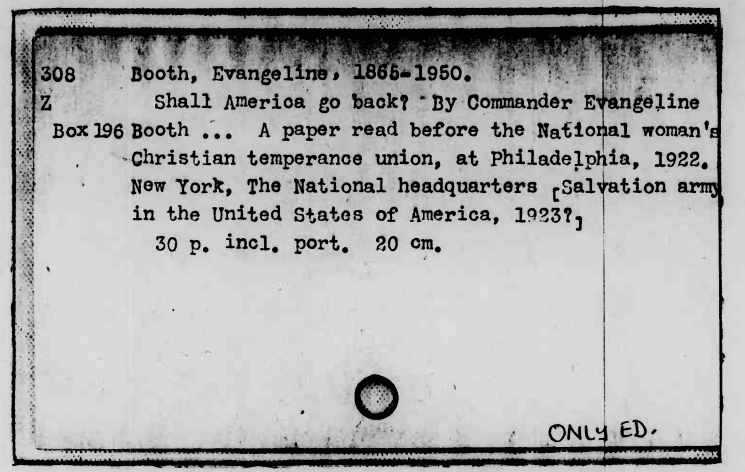
308 Booth, Evangeline, 1865-1950.
Z Shall America go back? By Commander Evangeline
Box 196 Booth ... A paper read before the National woman's
Christian temperance union, at Philadelphia, 1922.
New York, The National headquarters [Salvation army
in the United States of America, 1923?]
30 p. incl. port. 20 cm.
ONLY ED.

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TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35mm REDUCTION RATIO: 9:1 IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA (IIA) IB IIB

DATE FILMED: 4/30/97 INITIALS: TLM

TRACKING # : 23429

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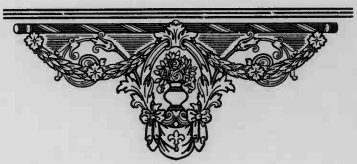
Shall America Go Back?



By

COMMANDER EVANGELINE BOOTH

Commanding The Salvation Army in the United States of America

A Paper Read Before The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at Philadelphia, 1922

THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
122 WEST FOURTEENTH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

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Rec'd 1926 Art

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Evangeline Booth

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

By COMMANDER EVANGELINE BOOTH

A Paper Read Before The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union At Philadelphia, 1922

I. THE W. C. T. U. AND ITS FOUNDER

WE are assembled to-day for the consideration of a question of immeasurable magnitude—a question that is perhaps of all most vital to universal righteousness—to which cause our prayers and our powers are dedicated—for among the formidable foes of human weal there is none so insidious, so implacable, so utterly execrable as intoxicating drink.

While under an overmastering conviction of the grave importance of this occasion, I cannot help but feel how inestimable is the privilege of addressing an audience such as this. About me in all directions are those who represent both the flower and fragrance of the world's womanhood. As I look upon you, and realize all that you symbolize, all that you have inspired, all that you have accomplished in the lifting of humanity to higher planes of thought and conduct, I feel both humbled and exalted by the honor you have so graciously conferred upon me this day.

Through half a century you have fought an unwavering fight to unseat the most monstrous and malignant tyrant of our land. During most trying periods your cheerful optimism and heartening faith have been an abiding inspiration to all that have wrought in the same strenuous cause; and future history, with its more perfect sense of values, will in full measure acknowledge civilization's indebtedness to the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

Evangeline Booth

By COMMANDER EVANGELINE BOOTH

A Paper Read Before The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union At Philadelphia, 1922

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In this day of exultation our thoughts linger around the sacrifices of those who have gone before. This afternoon one vision stands out before all that memory brings to view—a vision of the tall, slight figure, the smiling eyes beneath the shining fairness of the hair, the noble, sweet command of that one beloved and revered around the world, and enshrined forever in tenderest, unfading memory in the hearts of American womanhood—your honored founder—America's uncrowned queen—my dear and valued friend—Frances Willard!

The years that have passed since her radiant presence left us have but revealed her inestimable worth, have but deepened our appreciation of her gentleness of spirit, have but demonstrated her clarity of intellect and her steadfastness of purpose. Frances Willard blazed the trail upon which the reformer's feet have trod, and under the spell of her example and leadership the tide of public opinion turned until the battle was borne to the gates of government. The great moral issues of the temperance cause were at last officially as well as popularly recognized.

She did not live to see the fulfilment of her dream, but wherever women gather together to rejoice over the colossal achievement of a democratic government in overthrowing its most bitter foe—the liquor traffic—the seed she sowed in pain and tears is ripened into sheaves and reaped in joy.

Her memory is indescribably and imperishably precious to me; not only because of her life work, but because she was generous enough to give me an abiding place in her loving heart. We had sweet communion together. She gave me of the wealth of her affection and of the riches of her wisdom.

With all my heart, and the heart of my people, tens of thousands strong, I pray that God will continue to bless and to guide the finely triumphant organization which she founded.

The heritage of her great leadership has fallen upon most capable and worthy shoulders; and I, with deep and abounding sincerity, greet your National and International leader, Miss Anna Gordon, who, with her numerous and noble associates, is proving to be just the protagonist this splendid Union needs.

II. THE TEMPERANCE REVOLUTION

WE are here to-day to mingle our voices in the shout of victory over what will ever be the world's greatest moral triumph. But we are still upon the field, not with our swords in their scabbards, but drawn to drive the remainder of the enemy beyond our gates, and to keep them there.

The enemy's line has, indeed, crumbled, and his citadel has been captured, but the discredited outlaw still essays a guerilla warfare, and I am quite sure that your Convention has resulted in renewal of purpose to attack, and then attack again, until the outlaw, drink, with all its nefarious traffic, is denied toleration by men and women wherever reason and truth and feeling prevail.

This question, "Shall America Go Back?" suggests an investigation of the progress of Prohibition. I am aware that from a technical standpoint the phrase may be open to criticism, because the very word Prohibition is a word of finality. But I must hold to the phrase all the same, and, if any grammatical rule is violated it must be regarded as a casualty in the interests of truth (as one of our homespun lecturers put it, "It may not be elegant, but it illustrates"). For we insist that the prohibition of intoxicating liquors in the United States has been, and is, progressive.

It has been progressive in its onsweep through the years. Review invites one's attention at a time like this.

Away back in the forties Abraham Lincoln wrote:

"Of our political revolution of '76 we are all justly proud. In it was the germ which vegetated, and still is to grow and expand into the universal liberty of mankind.

"Turn now to the temperance revolution. In it we shall find a stronger bondage broken, a viler slavery manumitted, a greater tyrant deposed; in it more of want supplied, more disease healed, more sorrow assuaged; by it no orphans starving, no widows weeping; by it none wounded in feeling, none injured in interest.

"And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth—how proud the title

of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both these revolutions that shall have ended in that victory!"

I feel Abraham Lincoln's spirit is here this afternoon.

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

But it has been a tedious, tortuous war of progression from Lincoln's time to this—a battle to the death, over and over again, with an enemy armed to the teeth with ample funds and cunning sophistries. But the blessing of an all-watchful and an all-conquering Jehovah hovered over the battlefield, the entreaties of mothers encamped around it, and the tears of the children baptized it. Through the long years public sentiment, created and nurtured by the noblest hearts and the most intellectual minds, has grown and ripened until at last the soil that gave birth to such immortals as Abraham Lincoln, Henry Ward Beecher, Charles Finney, John B. Gough, Dwight L. Moody and Frances Willard could no longer tolerate this monstrous wrong, and one glad morning America spread her starry banner to a new sun of liberty, and by constitutional Amendment repudiated the hitherto legalized iniquity.

Every step of the way has been contested. Ever since December, 1917, when Congress favorably acted upon the resolution recommending the Eighteenth Amendment, powerful and sleepless foes have sought to make it ineffective. Despite this organized and persistent opposition, one by one the States fell in line until but little over a year later the thirty-sixth State ratified the resolution, and so made possible the President's proclamation.

III. GOOD BUSINESS INSTEAD OF LIQUOR

DURING the year that by law preceded the coming into effect of the Amendment the air was filled and the public fed with the most dismal predictions. We were to see disaster in almost every conceivable department of life. The Government would go into liquidation because of the loss of taxes.

Real estate would slump in value because of the closing of the corner saloon. Starvation would come to large numbers because of the drying up of their source of living. Crime would become rampant because of the desperate appetite and unleashed passions of the outlawed. Social life would lose its zest for lack of stimulating help. The very religion of the people would be embarrassed because sacramental wine would be unobtainable.

What utter nonsense these vain predictions have proved to be! Our Government has shown no signs of bankruptcy. It is delivered from its unholy alliance with blood-money as one of its sources of support and is apparently unembarrassed by the saving of five billion dollars. The corners vacated by saloons are not desolated wastes, but are occupied with profitable and reputable business.

Take the case of Packingtown, the dwelling section behind the stockyards of Chicago. W. F. McDermott tells us that the famous automobile rows of the metropolis of the West must look to their laurels now that Packingtown has become a strong competitor.

But Packingtown's "Motor Row" is more than just an evidence of prosperity. Back of it lies a story of the evolution of a community.

In the old days the back of the yards district had its "Bucket of Blood" saloons and the famous whisky row, its shootings and sprees and revels and carousals, its woeful women and terrified children. To-day it would be difficult to find a community where, in spite of hard times, children have more laughing eyes and are better dressed, or men and women more prosperous-looking.

About fifteen saloons of the old "whisky row" have given place to the splendid Packingtown Day Nursery. Drug stores and barber-shops have entered into other vacated saloon quarters, and the automobile salesrooms have become the centres of interest. The brass rail of the saloon has disappeared before the running board of the automobile.

From the social standpoint the change amounts to a revolution. Money spent on liquor now goes—at least a substantial part of it—for gasoline. Formerly it but purchased deprivation and often

cruelty for the family. Now it procures healthful recreation and the cementing of family ties.

Saturday that used to be the dreaded day, because pay day, is now the "Glad-day." Every Saturday afternoon there are happy parties en route for the country. Father, mother, children, grandmother—sometimes four generations, gleefully chugging along in the "family Ford."

There are evidences of prosperity around us everywhere. There are ten million automobiles in the United States. Every tenth person is said to own one. This means that there is a car for every two families.

This means there is more building of homes than ever before, despite exorbitant prices. Workmen of all trades are erecting homes that cost ten, twelve, and even fifteen thousand dollars.

In other sections of Chicago which were made unavailable for high-class retail trade because of the blight of the saloons, department stores have sprung up catering largely to the needs of women and children. Just outside the Loop, on Lower State Street, splendid locations were formerly occupied almost uniformly by low-class saloons, girl shows, lady barber shops, fake auction establishments and similar places. A recent investigation shows that since Prohibition this section is developing at a remarkable rate. As an instance, Hinky Dink's Workingman's Rest Saloon formerly paid $150 rent for the four-story building. it occupied; since Prohibition closed this saloon, $500 rent is paid for the first floor alone.

But the building up of realty values in Chicago has been of little significance in comparison with the restoration of human values. Here is the testimony of the Superintendent of Oak Forest Institution which formerly cared for the poor unfortunates of the lodging-house district:

"The advent of Prohibition undoubtedly has much to do with the shrinkage of our population. A large percentage of our inmates came right from the lodging-house district and were

heavy drinkers. In the days when liquor was cheap and lunches were served in saloons free of charge these men were but little interested in caring for themselves outside of living from hand to mouth. Temporary breakdowns in their physical and mental conditions were of frequent occurrence. The infirmary's doors were open and they flocked hither in great numbers. They came for repair and they received it. However, about the time the price of liquor began to soar, and as saloon free lunches no longer were spread, there was a noticeable lessening in the arrivals at the institution. The squandering of earnings, meagre as they might be, was halted; physical and mental breakdowns became a thing of the past and the habitual poor-house guests no longer sought shelter here."

Our brewer friends—with those employed in allied trades—have none of them died of starvation, even though some of them might have expressed fears of so doing, like the saloon-keeper's wife who asked in despair: "What in the world will we do if Prohibition comes?" and the washerwoman replied: "You can have my job then."

In our great Capitol City there were, in one year before Prohibition, 180 husbands committed for non-support, but only 18 in 1921. It seems to me that Prohibition is going to take the "wash" out of Washington—and that wives will no longer have to wash for a living.

As to Prohibition causing non-employment, take the case of Peoria, Ill., formerly known as the whisky centre of the world. Thirteen of her distilleries once employed 1,000 men in the manufacture of alcohol; they now employ 4,000 men manufacturing thirty different useful products, such as stock-feed, wheat flour, cane syrup, jellies, jams, etc. Think of the improvement for the nation that jam is on gin.

IV. DECREASE OF CRIME

AS for crime, it is certainly no worse, but vastly decreased now that the chief hotbed and incubator of crime—the saloon—no longer swings its open doors.

The effect can be seen in the figures supplied by twenty-five of our largest cities in the United States. These show that for all causes there was a reduction of over one hundred and twenty-two thousand arrests.

In these same cities in the same periods there were respectively 441,859 and 216,115 arrests for intoxication. A decrease of over one-half.

A visitor from Australia found that in Pittsburgh, Pa., County Jail 315 cells were empty, and that Seattle, Wash., had only 95 inmates in prison, with accommodation for 300.

Judge Gemmill, of the Chicago Municipal Court, has said: "I have collected prison statistics for the last seven years in several of the leading States, and everywhere the number of prisoners has decreased since Prohibition. I have not found a single State nor a single prison where there was not a marked decrease in the prison population in 1919 and 1920. In most of the States there was an increase in 1921 over 1920, but with that increase the population is still twenty or twenty-five per cent. less than it was before the war, and in eighty per cent. of them the number of prisoners has been reduced from fifteen to eighty per cent."

Remember that the wets and wet newspapers never compare dry years with wet years. When they say crime has increased, drunkenness has increased, etc., they purposely give years which do not show the before and after effects of Prohibition. The 1921 figures are a warning to us that we need more, not less, Prohibition. They prove what I have already said, that we must remain on the battlefield to defend to our last energy what we have gained.

As we turn to the Homes for Inebriates, we find that the Washingtonian Home in Chicago, the oldest institution of its kind

in the country, in one year before Prohibition admitted 1,620 inebriates. It is now closed.

The Neal Institute for Alcoholics reveals the same story. In 1910 68 such institutions in the country cared for 125,000 patients. Now they are almost all out of commission.

Here are some further striking figures:

Alcoholic Ward in Philadelphia General Hospital:

1918	2,326
1921	702

Ohio Hospital for the Insane:

1911 eleven and eight-tenths per cent. of admissions attributed to alcohol and drugs.

1921 two and seven-tenths per cent.

Is not the latter a convincing answer to the unwarrantable complaint that Prohibition has increased drug addicts?

In a letter to Gifford Gordon, of Australia, Judge Gemmill writes:

"There has been a decrease in the number of persons arrested in America for drunkenness of over 600,000 per year. This figure is based upon the figures I have in my possession for all the largest cities in the United States. In most of these cities the decrease is from 100 to 400 per cent."

V. IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH

THE bodies which hold those precious souls which The Salvation Army is pledged to save are our special care. Wonderful and beautiful as are the physical features of God's Creation, what are its greatest wonders, its mountains and seas and stars and valleys, in comparison with man, God's greatest work—man, God's best, created after His image, earth his footstool, Heaven his Home—God his Father, eternity his lifetime? Should not the goal of every government be to legislate to the limit to keep hurt and breakage and destruction from him? Must we not, therefore, rejoice when we read such testimony as that given by Dr. Haven Emerson in "The American Review of

Tuberculosis" in June, 1922: "In the last fifty years the tuberculosis death rate only fell seventy-seven and nine-tenths per cent. In the last eleven years the death rate only fell fifty-one per cent. In the single year of 1921 the death rate fell eighteen and one-tenth per cent. The greatest factor in this rapid decrease is lessened expenditure for alcohol and more for food, lessened alcoholism with improved conditions of the poor."

Think what this signifies in the homes of incipient or would-have-been consumptives! Think of the anxiety, the waste, the suffering, the contamination of young children, all saved because the saloon is gone and the nation has outlawed the disease-breeding liquor traffic!

Here is a startling medical testimony as to the effects of Prohibition on pneumonia. Remember how liquor advocates cried "Shame!" because we would deprive the poor pneumonia patient of his life-saving whisky! In "The Journal of the American Medical Association" of July 28, 1922, discussing pneumonia, Dr. Alexander Lambert, New York, says: "There has been a great change in the pneumonias in New York City. When we had all the alcohol that was desired in life, in Bellevue Hospital one-third of the 40,000 patients were in the alcoholic wards with or without delirium tremens. That made a strong alcoholic group among pneumonia patients and the death rate was sixty-six per cent. for the alcoholic and twenty-three per cent. for the non-alcoholic group. The type has changed. One does not see the thoroughly poisoned, chronically soaked alcoholic person in the hospital. The change in pneumonia has also been distinct. We had two wards of fifty patients each; in one group alcohol was given, and the death rate was forty per cent.; in the other group alcohol was not given, and the death rate was fourteen per cent."

Dr. Russell L. Cecil, New York, says: "The change in the pneumonia death rate of which Dr. Lambert spoke is a striking thing. In Bellevue Hospital the death rate before Prohibition was from forty per cent. to fifty-five per cent.; but the present death rate is only twenty-eight per cent."

VI. SUPPOSED CASE AGAINST PROHIBITION

NOW our adversaries declare they have a case against Prohibition. In the indictment there are several counts.

First, they say:

"Prohibition was surreptitiously secured."

They say that the Congressional resolution was passed and its ratification secured while "the boys" were overseas, and that but for this fact Prohibition never would have been possible. While this allegation, because of its repetition and the somewhat widespread belief it has been given, has been frequently and completely denied, permit me to cite the facts, with which many may not be familiar.

Who adopted Prohibition? The people themselves through their representatives in Congress and State Legislatures. In Congress 347 votes were cast for submitting the Eighteenth Amendment to the State Legislatures for ratification and 148 against. In the forty-six States out of the forty-eight which ratified the Amendment 5,084 votes were cast in the State Legislatures for ratification and 1,263 against it. The total vote was seventy-nine per cent. for ratification and twenty-one per cent. against.

You can impress the whole situation on your mind by remembering that Prohibition was "put over" by only forty-six of the forty-eight States in the Union with only ninety-eight per cent. of the population and only ninety-nine and three-fourths per cent. of the area of the United States. To sum up, only two small States —Connecticut and Rhode Island—refused to ratify. Prohibition could have been no surprise to the country, for thirty-three States were dry by State enactment and eighty-seven and eight-tenths per cent. of the area and sixty and seven-tenths per cent. of the population were under license law before the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect. How ridiculous to say that it was secured by surreptitious means!

VII. DRINK ALWAYS A LAWBREAKER

THE second count in this indictment is: "Prohibition does not prohibit."

It is rather strange that our enemies blow both hot and cold. We hear much about the drastic nature of the Volstead Act. It seems to prohibit overmuch, and our friends say: "We would be satisfied if they would allow light wines and beers." Then with almost the same breath they say: "Prohibition does not prohibit." If it doesn't then the "wets" are well served. But they know it does, and that every time they slake their thirst with the forbidden beverage they are breaking the law. This, in the drinkers' realm, may not be looked upon as particularly bad, but then drink is always true to form, and in the days when it was legalized its devotees were the most flagrant breakers of the law in the land. Drink will not be regulated. Its law-breaking proclivities are not new, but are as old as history. As a breaker of the law—be it laws of nature or laws of nations, laws of health or laws of home, laws of mind or laws of morals, the drink stands condemned—the red-handed criminal, the greatest law breaker in the land. So it is no new rôle for its apologists to assume when they cry: "Prohibition does not prohibit!"

That there are violations of the law all admit, but to cite that fact as an argument against the Prohibition Law is as futile as it would be to demand the cancellation of the whole decalogue because of repeated infraction of that law which is fundamental to all jurisprudence. It would be about as sensible to engage in an effort to expunge the Ten Commandments from the Book of God because of their non-fulfilment in the lives of men as it is to advance the theory that the Prohibition Law should be repealed because it does not prohibit.

Because the laws against arson, theft and murder are being violated, shall we abandon these laws and their penalties? Certainly not; and by the same token the Eighteenth Amendment and its supporting law must stand.

VIII. THE TRUE TEST

THE third count in this indictment is: "You cannot by law make men moral."

This statement cannot survive the acid test. Its reasoning is fallacious and its implications untrue.

I must remind our friends that the question is not simply and only one of morals. That phase of the matter, I admit, to Salvationists looms up with singular distinctness. We hold that it is positively wicked to take God's good grain, capable of sustaining the lives of multitudes who are now on the verge of starvation, and waste it, and not only so, but, in the process of waste, turn it into an unmitigated curse. No proprietary rights will absolve any from the moral obloquy of such conduct. To trade in that deceptive and destructive thing, apart from anything that statutory law may say, has long been regarded as of doubtful ethics. The beverage use of alcohol has proved with mathematical precision that it is a demoralizing and dehumanizing agent. Oh, yes! It is a moral question, but not only so. It is also an economic question, a sociological question, a political question, a scientific question, and startlingly these days have demonstrated it to be an international question. So it comes to pass that the economist, the scientist, the statesman, the sociologist and the manufacturer have all joined with the moralist in the enunciation of this law that was graven by the hand of God in the constitution of human life.

The statement that morality is divorced from law is not true. Moral conduct is the aim and end of law. That is the meaning of law. Its enactment and administration have good conduct for their objective, and while conduct may at times be governed by nobler considerations than fear of penalty, law is still universally recognized as necessary to the existence of well-ordered society. When people say: "You can't legislate people into good morals," I reply: Into the whole fabric of our nation's law is woven the ethical element, and any law that violates a correct moral standard is foredoomed to dishonor and its repeal is certain. By this test the old liquor-license laws were tried and condemned

and ultimately superseded, and I feel quite happy in the realization that the same searching trial will be applied to the new, for it will but reveal to the whole world the soundness of our present legislative position. Meanwhile depopulated prisons and rebuilt homes witness to the fallacy of this argument advanced against Prohibition.

IX. LIBERTY VERSUS ANARCHY

THE fourth indictment is: "Prohibition invades personal liberty."

Into this supposed tower of refuge probably more of our opponents run than any other, and from its flimsy ramparts they fling the cry: "Prohibition invades our personal liberty by prescribing what we shall eat and what we shall drink; and we deny any man's right to prescribe our plum pudding or our exhilarating cup."

The principle which enters into the Prohibition Law is no more nor no less than that which is basic to the restraints of all law. No man objects to the denial of his liberty to steal; anyway, he doesn't object to the curtailment of his neighbor's liberty in this direction; therefore he should intelligently accept the application of this same principle to that house-breaking, home-destroying, child-abusing, business-wrecking thief, Alcohol.

Liberty, true liberty, is a priceless heritage, but no man's liberty comprehends a right to strike another down—not even if that other is his own child. In the exercise of society's right to protect itself, the nation came to an appraisal of the monstrous wrong that was perpetrated upon it by its permission of the drink traffic. Progress toward that evaluation was slow and tedious, but the final appraisal was correct—correct politically, correct economically, correct scientifically, correct socially and correct morally. With the soul of the people awake to this solemn fact, there was no consistent course possible but for the nation to cleanse its hands forever from the cruel partnership that had dishonored it, and refuse longer to traffic in homes, in happiness, in health, in the very

lives of its children. For this holy purpose our nation flung her starry pen across the Federal books and by strictly constitutional means wrote into the organic law of the land that which every officer and every citizen is pledged to support. In the name of all civilization I declare that there is no liberty apart from law. There is but one alternative—anarchy.

What about the enforcement of law?

That splendid American, the Honorable Charles E. Hughes, Secretary of State, says: "Everybody is ready to sustain the law he likes. That is not in the proper sense respect for law and order. The test of respect for law is where the law is upheld even though it hurts."

Law must be, and it must be obeyed. Yet there are those who argue that breach of the Prohibition Law is excusable. Some say it is laudable, while others are defiant and make it their business in life to forward their sinister work of doing those things that the law prohibits. There are others that go still further; in their wild thirst for gain the lives of their victims count not, and murder is added to fraud, when they trade upon the weakness of their fellows and for fabulous prices sell deadly poison.

How sorrowful it is that opposition to Prohibition has united, as in a great dragnet, the good and the bad, so that the clean and respected citizen and the professional Drink-exploiter are cogitating and co-operating together for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment! But—"THEY SHALL NOT PASS."

The Prohibition Law sprang from the soil and the soul. It germinated in remote and sacred places where mothers pray and fathers think. The country church, the country W. C. T. U., the country home and school took the lead—the West far in advance of the East. Long and wearisome has been the struggle. Shall those who fought and gained it ever go back? "Kansas," William Allen White says, "and States of her tradition and her kind would no more lose their forty years' fight for Prohibition than they would lose their four years' fight against slavery."

X. THE BANE OF COMPROMISE

THERE are those that pronounce themselves in favor of light wines and beers. They are the "happy medium" folk. To them the Prohibition Amendment is good, but its enforcement is bad. Their cry is "Modify." Their name is legion. According to a recent independent poll, the number of these "would-be" modifiers nearly equals the number of those who support unqualifiedly the Amendment and its supporting legislation. Herein lies our danger. We have nothing to fear at the hands of the out-and-out "wets." They constitute a dismal and discredited minority. The compromisers are the bane that threatens the nation's Prohibition policy.

A very large number, I might say nearly all, of these friends repudiate the saloon, and if it were a choice between the return of the saloon and Prohibition, then they would choose Prohibition. But the menace of their position lies in the thought that light wines and beers are effectively divorced from the saloon and that the one can exist without the other. They say, "No saloon—it is gone forever—but give us light wines and beers."

Now, if it were possible to meet their demand I am still for Prohibition as prescribed by the present statutes. But it is not possible. It is not possible constitutionally. Intoxicating liquor is barred and little or no argument is needed to prove that so-called light wines and beers are of the proscribed class.

Former President Taft, the present Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, says: "As a matter of fact I am not in favor of amending the Volstead Act in respect to the amount of permissible alcohol in beverages. I am not in favor of allowing light wines and beer to be sold under the Eighteenth Amendment. I believe it would defeat the purpose of the Amendment. No such distinction as that between wines and beers on the one hand and spirituous liquors on the other is practicable as a police measure."

These "modifiers" for the most part hate drunkenness. Nobody defends drunkenness as a habit. The poor drunkard excites universal pity and almost universal contempt. What an infinite

shame it is that reasonable men can be found to defend and plead for the stuff that makes drunkards! But these modifiers say that three per cent. is safe. I deny it! I challenge it! Some subjects will become noticeably intoxicated on drink of low alcoholic content. Some can take drink of much stronger proportion and reveal to the casual observer no bad effects. But what are the facts?

Science tells us that alcohol is a narcotic, habit-forming drug, the first effect of which is to paralyze the higher centres of the brain. It may be quite unobserved by the man himself and the surrounding company, but even as the microscope will discover the bacteria that threaten, and the microphone detect the sounds inaudible, so science with its delicate and accurate instruments startlingly shows that no person can take into his system the small quantity of alcohol contained in a glass of light wine or beer without incipient physical degeneration.

This fact is, in the experience of men, demonstrated beyond all contradiction, and what science claims, life insurance statistics support.

Arthur Hunter, Chief Actuary of the New York Life Insurance Company, said regarding the death-rate of policy holders in Germany during the war: "Our total mortality was twelve per cent. better during the four years of the war, including war losses, than in the preceding eleven years of peace." This largely resulted because of limitation in the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The Germans, of course, we all know are beer drinkers.

The Life Extension Institute published a report of actuaries of forty-three American life insurance companies showing the increase in twenty-five years in the mortality rate of moderate users of alcohol. The report stated that very moderate users increased their death rate by eighteen per cent. over the normal rate, moderate users with occasional excess by fifty per cent., and those who drank more than two glasses of beer or more than one glass of whisky a day increased their death rate by eighty-six per cent.

In an interesting investigation by the Actuary of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company moderate users who were

classed as "users of wine only, not exceeding four glasses of light wine, or three of heavy wine daily; and users of beer or light ale, not daily and not more than three in any one day," showed a mortality of over sixteen per cent. greater than abstainers. Those who took five glasses of light wine daily were classed with those who took whisky, brandy or gin, and their mortality was fifty per cent. greater than that of total abstainers.

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

XI. SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY

CAN there be anything more convincing than the fact that long before Prohibition was written into the Federal statutes Prohibition was the inexorable practise for the forces operating the great arteries of travel, and many other equally important forms of industry where risk had to be reduced to the minimum and efficiency increased to the maximum?

"Labor Union Bulletin," of Newark, N. J., said: "Our employees have increased their efficiency 100 per cent. because of Prohibition."

A recent survey of managers of the big industrial concerns throughout the country conducted by the "Manufacturers Record" shows that the laboring man does not need and is not clamoring for his beer. Ninety-eight and one-half per cent. of the manufacturers answering favored Prohibition, and most of them ascribed to the absence of drink improved home conditions among their employees, fewer accidents, better care for women and children and a keener sense of responsibility.

XII. THE BEERY NINE-TENTHS

WHEN decent people talk of bringing back beer and wine without the saloon they, of course, do not realize that more than ninety per cent. of the alcohol consumed before Prohibition was beer. They do not realize that if we bring back beer we will bring back more than nine-tenths of the old liquor traffic. They do not realize when they talk of letting America have wine that France, Spain, Italy—the countries which produce about seven-tenths of all the wine in the world—show the highest per-capita consumption of pure alcohol. France, the country of wine, has one saloon to every eighty-two inhabitants, or every twenty families. France, impoverished as she is, had a drink bill of one billion and a quarter dollars in 1921, and this money was spent, not on cocktails, but on wine.

They are ignorant of the fact that wine and beer contain proportionally the same alcohol as spirits—that if you place on the table before you half a pint of wine containing eight per cent. alcohol, a pint of four per cent. beer, a glass containing three tablespoonfuls of forty-two per cent. whisky, each contains the same amount of alcohol, which will have the same degenerating effect on brain and soul and body.

Recent exposures of the wine-drinking habits of foreign countries should convince America that to introduce this form of alcoholism would be to undo all the good we have achieved in our fight for Prohibition. Dr. Lyman Fisk, of the Life Extension Institute, says of beer-drinking: "It is nonsense to claim that beer is a hygienic drink. Anyone who says that beer does not produce a certain form of intoxication is wrong. They need only visit the saloon and watch the beer-drinker in various stages of befuddlement or excitement. If beer does not intoxicate or produce any alcoholic effect, what becomes of the racial craving for stimulants which it is to satisfy? The heavy mortality of brewery employees is sufficient evidence that beer, so far as its effect on masses of men is concerned, is not a hygienic drink."

Unfortunately there are large numbers of sober-minded persons who have quite failed to comprehend these truths. But a fact is a stubborn thing. The W. C. T. U., with its marvelous educational history behind it, has a great service to perform in carrying forward its enlightening work. What has been done in some States, through its persevering toil, should be done in all, namely, getting the text-books of the schools to tell the simple truth concerning the baneful effects of alcohol. The brewers bid heartlessly for the children. Let us see that the schools so instruct them that the coming generation, growing up without alcohol, educated in the history of its abuses against hygiene, commerce and morality, will, as a matter of course, sustain their Government's banishment of their parents' and grandparents' foe.

Our beloved and honored President said recently:

"In the face of so much evidence on the point, what conscientious man would want to let his own selfish desires influence him to vote to bring it back? In another generation I believe that liquor will have disappeared not merely from politics, but from our memories!"

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

XIII. THE SALVATION ARMY AND THE DRINK

I STAND here to-day as a leader of a movement that, in its attitude toward the drink evil, has never known a hesitating moment. At the inception of The Salvation Army, over half a century ago, Prohibition was in its infancy, and there was then no condemnation of moderate drinkers. A religious movement, with total abstinence as a condition of membership, was both novel and unpopular. But the die was cast, for our Founder, my father, saw this was the curse that bound the poor man as with an iron chain to his poverty, and was both the forerunner and supporter of the worst crimes. Proscription was the only course, and that course, without a single exception, has been followed. Because of this we stand to-day the greatest temperance movement on the face of the earth. The Army has a right to voice its convictions and to testify to its experiences concerning intoxicating liquor, for its hands are clean!

It will be expected that I should say something as regards the immediate benefits of Prohibition as seen by The Salvation Army.

With whatever false reasoning some may delude themselves, our experience with all classes of society proves that with the ousting of the saloon, nine-tenths of the drunkenness of the country disappeared. Of all welfare workers none were in closer touch with those who were afflicted with this burning thirst than my faithful officers and people, and their uniform and irrefutable testimony clearly shows that the chief source of former debaucheries is gone. One of my principal officers, an unimpeachable witness, said to me only a few days ago: "In former days I usually had eight to ten drunken men in my meetings. Since Prohibition came I have only seen two men so conditioned in all my meetings throughout the country. Commander, something has happened!"

Yes, something has happened. The drink-sodden wretch, who formerly was the despair of law and almost the despair of the Gospel, is found in only rare instances. Those who are working for the repeal or the nullification of the Prohibition Amendment should solemnly ask themselves whether they are prepared again to

expose their fellowmen to this terrible temptation and peril. One of my officers in Kentucky tells of an old mountaineer who said to him: "Captain, six years ago I had no home, no possessions at all. For years I had been a drunkard. My wife and children lived in poverty. Now I have built and paid for my house. I live in the hot Summer months on my lot by the river." While this conversation went on the children in neat bathing suits were taking a dip in the river. The mother was sitting in the rocking chair. A first-class record was playing "Nearer, My God, to Thee." The old man said, "I owe it all to God and the men and women of God who put down the accursed drink."

XIV. TESTIMONY OF RESCUE OFFICERS

THE superintendent of our Slum Settlement Work tells me that applications for relief are reduced fifty per cent. She says: "The majority we now relieve are widows. The families in the districts we visit are better fed, better clothed, and better housed. Another significant feature is the decrease of mortality among young children. It used to be a common thing for reports to reach us of babies that had fallen from fire escapes and infants that were smothered on account of drunken parents, but not one such report has reached us during the last year!"

Yes, something has happened. Our Women's Rescue Officers bear testimony to the effects of Prohibition upon the broken hearts of our city streets. These experienced workers cannot be deceived regarding the relation of strong drink or light wine to the social evil. They have a greatly simplified problem with the drink factor eliminated. Whereas in the past hundreds came to the refuge of our Homes as victims of wine-room or saloon-parlor seductions, to-day drink cases are rarely found, and from the different calibre of cases coming under our care it would seem that the baser forms of the monster's subtle designs cannot be sustained without the stimulus of intoxicating drink.

Yes, something has happened, for the whole force of our Industrial Home managers bear witness that the old type of needy man is no more. There is need, but need begotten through drink is practically wiped out, whereas formerly it was one of the most prolific causes of poverty. Our Relief Department and Labor Bureau contribute the same evidence, and every phase of Salvation Army activity unites in extolling the Prohibition Law as beneficent in its results.

Since Prohibition many of the inmates of our Industrial Homes have banking accounts. Here are just a few figures which are representative of the many which the actual facts would supply. In eleven of our 88 institutions 166 men have saved $6,880, an average of over $41 per man. Not a very large nest egg to be sure, but nothing short of phenomenal when it is remembered that before Prohibition these men were in a state of perpetual destitution, and that they could not in any emergency keep twenty-five cents in their pockets.

The Continental and Commercial Trust Savings Bank of Chicago reports that since Prohibition deposits have increased ten million dollars.

Courtenay Guild, of the "Boston Commercial Bulletin," says: "A workman whom I have employed was frequently arrested for drunkenness, and seldom worked more than three days a week. Since Prohibition he has worked steadily, and in less than a year has an account of over $600 in the Savings Bank." Mr. Guild adds, "I would gladly go without wine for the rest of my life to allow these men to be happy and useful citizens under National Prohibition."

No one can face these facts without agreeing that great advance has been made in Prohibition—perhaps not all the advance we hoped, perhaps not all the advance that might have been, but from the condition of things in nation, street, and home under pre-Prohibition times, to the condition of to-day, advance unmistakable and encouraging has been made.

XV. NEW STATUE OF LIBERTY

SHALL we temporize, shall we compromise, and thereby jeopardize all for which we have fought for God and home and land? Of intention I make use of your glorious slogan, "A Dry World," for I refuse to localize the effects of this legislation, or circumscribe them even with such broad confines as the Atlantic and Pacific seaboards! America with the eye of the world upon her has accomplished this thing by the votes of free men and free women. She has erected a new Statue of Liberty with which to enlighten and lead the peoples of every land. Is there one with hand ruthless enough, or with eyes blind enough, or with heart selfish enough, to dare the attempt to extinguish that light and bring this noblest monument low? From the advanced moral standard taken among the nations, shall America go back? All the vile foes that have ever trailed their bloody tracks across street, or vale, or plain; all the cruel instruments of war, ancient and modern, that have drawn blood, torn flesh, maimed bodies and destroyed life; all the destructive powers that have ever sunk ships, devastated cities, plundered homes, and brought down kingdoms—all in their massed aggregate have never occasioned one-half of the sorrow, the breakage, the ruin, the self-destruction and the death that has poured from the cauldron of this red-eyed, fire-mouthed, gory-handed, hydra-headed, diabolical monster—Alcohol!

My God, Thou knowest it! My God, Thou knowest it!

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

Drink has drained more blood, hung more crepe, sold more homes, plunged more people into bankruptcy, armed more villains, slain more children, snapped more wedding rings, defiled more innocence, blinded more eyes, twisted more limbs, dethroned more intellects, wrecked more manhood, dishonored more womanhood, broken more hearts, blasted more lives, driven to more suicide and dug more graves than any other poisoned scourge that ever swept its death-dealing waves across the world.

Can it be that men and women are so bemused by selfishness,

and beset by appetite, that they will take again into their national life, into the bosom of their homes, this baneful, loathsome, reeking, wrecking abomination?

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

Let me ask you to step back to the days of the wide-swung doors of the saloon. Let me tear the film from the eyes of men who are blinded by mercenary gains and selfish appetite. Let me persuade mothers and fathers of every status of life for one brief moment to blot out every other consideration while here to-day we look to the handwriting on the wall of the nation, and read what is written there. Such trembling strokes—such weak, shaky characters—such long spaces between the words; words ill-formed—words ill-spelled—words ill-placed. Such simple little sentences, but vastly comprehensive—such faint impress, but never to be obliterated. Whose are the fingers that have wielded the trembling pen—the thin fingers—the misshapen fingers—the twisted fingers? Whose is the writing? Why it is the children's—the handwriting of the children, across the wall of the nation—stretching from sea to sea!

Ah! You can hush every other voice of national and individual complaint; you may silence every other tongue, even those of mothers of destroyed sons and daughters, of wives of profligate husbands; but let the children speak—the little children, the wronged children, the crippled children, the abused children, the blind children, the imbecile children, the nameless children, the starved children, the deserted children, the beaten children, the dead children! O my God, this army of little children! Let their weak voices, faint with oppression, cold and hunger, be heard! Let their little faces, pinched by want of gladness, be heeded! Let their challenge—though made by small forms, too mighty for estimate—be reckoned with! Let their writing upon the wall of the nation—although traced by tiny fingers, as stupendous as eternity—be correctly interpreted and read, that the

awful robbery of the lawful heritage of their little bodies, minds, and souls is laid at the brazen gate of Alcohol!

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

XVI. THE CHALLENGE

I HEAR this challenge coming also as the voice of many waters from thousands of homes rehabilitated, from thousands of wastes reclaimed, from thousands of half-damned souls redeemed, from thousands of drunkards with manhood regained; from smoking flax and bruised reed, the chorus thrills on and on and on until it is caught up by ten thousand times ten thousand voices of faith and hope and love and liberty. Still on and on in vibrant tones it wings its way. Mothers in the cottage voice it, the sick in the hospital join in it, the children on the school bench lift it, the convict in the prison cell catches it, the striplings of new character in this new day shout it.

Still on and on the challenge rolls through garret and palace, over hill and through dale—onward and upward, higher and higher, until the dear ones in Glory catch the mighty sound and with all the redeemed, their faces aglow in the light of the Morning, join in as with a trumpet call that echo along the everlasting hills—

SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?

FOOTNOTE.—Commander Evangeline Booth is regarded throughout America as an authority thoroughly competent to speak upon matters comprehended in this paper, and consequently an instant and insistent demand for the printing of it in pamphlet form was made at the time of its delivery.

FIVE MINUTES WITH

THE SALVATION ARMY

A man undertook to explain The Salvation Army to a friend in five minutes by a stop watch.

This is what he said:

"WHAT IS IT?"—It is a great body of men and women who have given up leisure and luxuries—even tobacco—in order to work for life at saving every possible human being from sin, suffering and poverty.

"HOW DOES IT WORK?"—In a different way according to each different need. First the drum-tap, and the call to give up drink, vice, slackness and selfishness. Then the slum station with food for the starving and care for the sick. Then every possible kind of institution to pick up the fallen and keep them up—shelters for the homeless, labor bureaus for the workless, homes and hospitals for despairing girls and unwanted children.

"WHERE DOES IT WORK?"—In seventy-two different lands; wherever there is salvage work to be done. It began in England; to-day it is in the Indian Jungle, the Chinese Village, and the African Bush, preaching, teaching, healing, uplifting.

"WHY DOES IT DO THIS?"—Because it believes the root and fruit of true religion is to serve others and to win others for service. That is its theology in practise!

"WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT WORLD UNREST?"—First, that its brotherly sympathy is changing outcast, bitter rebels into useful citizens. Second, that it unites nations by links stronger than Leagues and Treaties.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to The Salvation Army (Inc.), a religious and charitable corporation, the following property:

.....

.....

.....

.....

or .....

sums of money, absolutely for the use of its religious, charitable and missionary work, to be administered by its Board of Trustees.

(If devise, or bequest, is for any special branch of its work, it should be mentioned)

NOTE: For administrative purposes the property of The Salvation Army is held by three separate Corporations as follows:
A Corporation under the laws of the State of New York for the States east of the Mississippi River, Indiana and Michigan.
A Corporation under the laws of the State of Illinois for the Central States.
And a Corporation under the laws of the State of California for the Rocky Mountain States and the Pacific Coast and Hawaiian Islands.

THE SALVATION ARMY

KNOWS

That Alcoholic Liquor

Is Dangerous To All

Officers of The Salvation Army have been at work for over fifty years in the underworld. They have found that:

[1] The majority of those who have fallen have been brought down by DRINK.

[2] That the victims of this evil are of all grades of society. No home, no walk of life, no profession, no class is free from its menace. And no precaution but that of TOTAL ABSTINENCE gives safety.

THE ONLY SAFE WAY FOR ALL

rich and poor alike, is to shut Alcohol Out Entirely and Forever

ABOVE POLITICS; ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS OF CREED OR RACE; ABOVE VESTED INTERESTS; ABOVE SELFISH PLEASURE, LET THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE BE HEARD IN

AN OVERWHELMING NO!

Whenever the Question is Asked

"SHALL AMERICA GO BACK?"

MSH 23429

END OF
TITLE